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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT DEC 06 2000

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Technology Center 2600

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference Hi bu 990134wo | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/EP99/01062 | International filing date (day/month/year) 18 February 1999 (18.02.99) | Priority date (day/month/year) 18 February 1998 (18.02.98) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N 5/222, 5/272 | | |
| Applicant GMD - FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM INFORMATIONSTECHNIK GMBH | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 4 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of submission of the demand 27 August 1999 (27.08.99) | Date of completion of this report 19 October 1999 (19.10.1999) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP99/01062

1. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☐ the description, pages 1-22, as originally filed,
 pages _____, filed with the demand,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____, as originally filed,
 Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
 Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
 Nos. 1-17, filed with the letter of 26 August 1999 (26.08.1999),
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig 1/5-5/5, as originally filed,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.


2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1-17 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1-17 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-17 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations

See Supplemental Sheet.

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of V and VII

1. Reference is made to the following document:

WO 99 14939 A.
2. The subject matter of the amended Claim 1 and the subjects of dependent Claims 2-17 satisfy the criteria stipulated in PCT Article 33(2) and (3).
3. Document D1 - see in particular Figure 1 with the corresponding description on page 7, line 3 to page 8, line 11 and page 13, line 14 to page 14, line 3 and Claims 1, 13 and 17 - is considered to be the closest prior art and has still not been taken into consideration in the introductory part of the description (PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii)).
4. The claims have not yet been provided with reference signs (PCT Rule 6.2(b)).
5. Moreover, the introductory part of the description should be brought into conformity with the wording of the amended Claim 1 (PCT Rule 5.1(a)(iii)).
6. Finally, Figure 4 is lacking the reference sign 30 and Figures 6 and 7 are lacking the reference sign 36.

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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

See Supplemental Sheet.